

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03

ACDA-19 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 MC-02 NEA-14 DRC-01 /136 W

----- 071726

R 301710Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2135

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY OSLO

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CJCS

SEC USAF

DIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 7584

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BE

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT:REQUEST FOR DATA

1. MASS CIRCULATION CONSERVATIVE HET LAATSTE NIEWS SEPTEMBER A27  
QUOTES WITH SOME APPROVAL BAC SALES PITCH SUGGESTING BELGIUM AND  
CONSORTIUM PARTNERS SEPERATE GROUND SUPPORT AND FIGHTER INTERCEPTION  
ROLES, BUYING RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE JAGUAR FOR FORMER ROLE AND  
MIRAGE, YF-16 OR YF-17 FOR ALTTER OR POSSIBLEY EVEN JUST BUYING  
JAGUARS AND "TRANSFORMING" EXISTING MIRAGES, AS ISREALIS ALLEGEDLY  
DID. IF GOING COMBINATION THESE ROUTES, THE ARGUMENT GOES,  
EVERYBODY WOULD BE HAPPY--THE BRITISH FOR SELLING JAGUARS,THE  
FRENCH BY PROVIDING ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT FOR THE  
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TRANSFORMATION OF THE MIRAGES, AND THE US BY SELLING SMALLER

NUMBER YS-61S OF YF-17S.

2. ANOTHER CASE FOR COMPROMISE IS MADE EDITORIALY IN THE MASS-CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT LE SOIR BY MARCEL GREGOIRE, RETIRED LIBERAL PRO-AMERICAN POLITICIAN. HE CONSIDERS THAT THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN CONTENDERS ARE TECHNOLOGICALLY COMPARABLE AND THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS OFFERED BY FRANCE AND THE US HAVE BEEN EQUALIZED BY COMPETITION. THUS HE ASSUMES THAT THE ISSUE IS POLITICAL AND SHOULD BE RESOLVED WITHOUT "ANGERING" EITHER THE US OR FRANCE. THE FOUR CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES, THE US AND FRANCE SHOULD SIT DOWN AROUND THE TABLE AND ARRIVE AT A COMPROMISE AGREEABLE TO ALL.

3. COMMENT: THE IMPORTANT POINT THAT EMERGES FROM THESE AND OTHER PRESS COMMENTS IS THE FAIRLY WIDELY SHARED ASSUMPTION THAT THE FRENCH AND US PLANES HAVE COMPARABLE PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS. THUS, ONE OF THE STRONGEST ARGUMENTS FAVORING THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT -- THEIR SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE IN COMBAT -- IS LOST ON THE PUBLIC THOUGH CONSORTIUM HAS INFORMED AND IS HOLDING IT CLOSELY. IN OUR JUDGEMENT IT WOULD HELP OUR EFFORT IF WE WERE TO EXPLAIN IN NON-TECHNICAL TERMS THE WAYS THAT OUR AIRCRAFT ARE BETTER THAN THE COMPETITORS -A- SUCH AS ACCELERATION, RATE OF CLIMB, MANEUVERABILITY -- AND WHY THESE CHARACTERISTICS ARE IMPORTANT IN AIR COMBAT.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DOD ADDRESS URGENTLY QUESTION RAISED PARA 3 ABOVE IN SUCH A WAY THAT CAN POINT OUT SUPERIORITY OF US AIRCRAFT: (A) IN PUBLIC; (B) IN TERMS THAT LAYMEN CAN UNDERSTAND; AND (C) WITHOUT COMPROMISING MILITARY SECRETS. WE RECOGNIZE DILEMMA INVOLVED IN MEETING THESE CONDITIONS, BUT BELIEVE THAT EFFORTS TO DO SO NOW ESSENTIAL BEFORE IT BECOMES (FALSE) CONVENTIONAL WISDOM AMONG NON-SPECIALIST HERE THAT US AND FRENCH AIRCRAFT WOULD BE BASICALLY EQUAL IN COMBAT. FIRESTONE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DATA, AIRCRAFT SALES, JET AIRCRAFT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740277-0297, D740275-1136  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 08 APR 2002  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** F-104 REPLACEMENT:REQUEST FOR DATA  
**TAGS:** OVIP, MASS, UR, BE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)  
**To:** STATE DOD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005